

Message Text

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SUBJECT: 1977 DEFENSE PLANNING SYMPOSIUM

REF: USNATO 3755

1. WE APPRECIATE ADVANCE NOTICE OF THEME AND PRESENTATIONS CURRENTLY ENVISAGED BY INTERNATIONAL STAFF FOR THE 1977 DEFENSE PLANNING SYMPOSIUM. ALTHOUGH IN GENERAL WE FIND MOST TOPICS SUGGESTED WORTHWHILE, WE DOUBT UTILITY OF DISCUSSION IN THIS FORUM OF TWO SUBJECTS: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD (PM THIRD DAY) AND NATO DEFENSE POLICY IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT NORTH AMERICAN-EUROPEAN RELATIONS (AM FOURTH DAY). WE SUGGEST MISSION BRING FOLLOWING POINTS TO ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE IS OFFICIALS.

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2. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD. THIS AREA, PAR-

TICULARLY AS REGARDS TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND MODERNIZATION OF SYSTEMS, IS UNDER INTENSE STUDY IN NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP. SINCE NPG MINISTERS WILL BE CONTINUING THEIR DISCUSSIONS OF THE SUBJECT BEYOND 1976, WE FEAR DISCUSSIONS AT 1977 DEFENSE PLANNING SYMPOSIUM WOULD TEND TO INTRUDE ON RESPONSIBILITIES OF NPG. FURTHERMORE, DRC AS SUCH HAS NO RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS FIELD. WE

SUGGEST AS AN ALTERNATIVE THE BROADER SUBJECT OF TECHNOLOGY AND FORCE PLANNING, WHICH COULD BE COVERED BY ASG LABERGE.

3. NATO DEFENSE POLICY IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT NORTH AMERICAN-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO SEE AN AGENDA ITEM CAST IN THESE TERMS. THIS COULD WELL BE A SENSITIVE AREA FOR DISCUSSION AT SYMPOSIUM. IF THERE IS NO PROBLEM HERE, THE SUBJECT NEED NOT BE DISCUSSED. IF THERE IS A PROBLEM HERE, THE PROBLEM WOULD BE POLITICAL AND THE SUBJECT SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED IN THIS FORUM. IF HOLST HAS INDICATED HIS AVAILABILITY AS SPEAKER, WE SUGGEST ASG INVITE HIM AS THE OPENING SPEAKER; WE WOULD WISH TO AVOID A SITUATION INVOLVING SPEAKERS SEEMING TO REPRESENT DIFFERING "EUROPEAN" AND "NORTH AMERICAN" VIEWPOINTS. OUR COMMENTS ARE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IS IS NOT ATTEMPTING TO COMPETE WITH IISS, WEHRKUNDE AND BILDERBERG CONFERENCES AS A LOCUS OF INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGES BUT RATHER IS STILL ATTEMPTING TO FURNISH AN INFORMAL FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS GENERALLY WITHIN DRC COMPETENCE.

4. ADDITIONAL TOPIC. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE STANDARDIZATION DIALOGUE BEGUN AT OBERAMMERGAU LAST JANUARY CONTINUE. THIS COULD TAKE FORM OF A STATUS AND PROGRESS UPDATE BY THE MAJOR PLAYERS AND MIGHT INCLUDE MORE SPECIFIC AND DISCUSSION-PROVOKING SUBTOPICS SUCH AS MORE COHERENT EQUIPMENT PLANNING CYCLES OR A REVIEW OF IMPLICATIONS AND STATUS OF NATIONAL CROSS-LICENSING POLICIES.

5. IN LIGHT OF CHANGE OF TITLE FROM DEFENSE PLANNING
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WORKSHOP TO DEF PLANING SYMPOSIUM, WE WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATION OF ANY RELATED CHANGES IN SECURITY LEVEL, AUDIENCE OR PARTICIPANTS, AND HANDLING OF RECORDS OF PRESENTATIONS AND OF DISCUSSIONS, IF ANY. FYI. IF INITIAL AGENDA IS MAINTAINED, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT LEVEL AND NATURE OF US PARTICIPATION FROM EUROPE AND US SHOULD BE. END FYI.

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